CHRISTMAS CHIMES!

How they add to the Christmas spirit! "Silent Night, Holy Night"—"Adeste Fideles" —pealing out on crisp air that is richly laden with the memories of other Christmas seasons —of that One memorable Christmas-tide centuries ago. Each Christmas sees an ever increasing number of churches enjoying the benefits that come through the installation of Golden Voiced Tower Chimes.

A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEED

Not only at Christmas time but at every other season of the year these Modern Tower Chimes confer incalculable benefits through reaching the strays and non-attendants—those whom the Church most of all wants to reach but who shun every ordinary invitation. When Chimes are installed there is invariably a noticeable spiritual awakening in the commu-

XN ADJUSTMENT FOR LIFE'S BITTER CHANGES.

Jn.16:33 In the world ye have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

INTRO. In the world ye have tribulations. Life's crushing blows strike us all, sooner or later, in greater or in lesser measure, but strike us they do. The bitter blows of life constitute a grave problem at all times. Sometimes they strike us so hard as to leave us stunned and helpless.

"I have just put off my head-set after listening to your sermon over the radio. I am an elderly schoo school teacher, and for years I held an important position in one of the famous high schools of this State. But two years ago I became deafy and then I was speedily thrown upon the scrap-heap. Thinking I would find solace in Nature, I moved away from the city and settled in this community. But just as I got busy with my garden one of my legs was paralyzed. That put an end to my outdoor life. Few people can guess the mental anguish I have suffered during these past few months. Frankly, I have given up faith in the justice of God."

Sommetimes our own misdeeds and blunders bring misfortune upon us. We are to blame for a certain amount of the sufferings of this world. But much of it just happens in spite of everything we may do. Many are but the victims of circumstances.

II. How do people meet their crushing blows?

1. Some lose their self-control entirely, often resorting to drink, drugs, the mad pursuit of pleasure, or the throwing aside of all moral restrictions, in open rebellion of their fate.

2. Others, clam-like, crawl into their shells and become deeply embittered against the world at large. Why have others so much and they so little? Why do others succeed and they fail?

3. Still others meet their crushing experiences in a sort of stoical way. They bear their sufferings without whincing or whining about it. They grin and bear it. And this is about the advice we give to people, especially the young people.

"Of course, you will meet with reverses and

misfirtunes. But dont permit yourself to grow morbid or bitter. Be a good soldier, bear your pain without wincing. No matter how heavy the odds are against you, dont give in. Just grin and bear it."

II. But Jesus said further, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Does Christ give us a new solution to this old problem? Do his followers have a more advantageous adjustment to make of their lives relative to their crushing experiences?

A. X enables his follower to respond sympathetically to ~~5~~four obvious facts.

(1)

1. The fellowship of suffering. We all must suffer. One who is hit hard need bear in mind that others also are being struck down, and many of them perhaps are worse off than he is.
Picture X Himself in Gethsemene-"Let this cup pass from me." Even Jesus could not have his own way. "Yet not my will, but thine." Humble submission.

2.

2. To seek an answer to the question,"Why?", is but to add to the suffering. No answer is to be found.

"I am 74 yrs old. I find myself utterly unable to answer the following question. Can you answer it for me? In 1895 my wife, stricken with melancholia, took her own life. In 1901 my eldest son died of a fever. In 1920 my eldest daughter, temporarily out of her mind with acute depression, shot herself. In 1924 my only living son and his two small children were burned to death in their own home. My question about life can be summed up in one word-WHY?"

Almost the last words that Jesus spoke were-" My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" My God, why?!" Even for Jesus, the suffering X, there was no answer. There is no answer for any of us. To seek an answer is to increase the suffering.

The true Xn ceases to torture his mind attempting to understand God's will and way. He recognizes the fact that "Now we see thru a glass darkly". And when he begins to accept his situation without resentment and still trusting in God there enters his heart the peace that Jesus knew, the peace that the world can neither give nor take away.

(2)

3. A Xn is made to see that it is one's privelege to arise triumphantly ~~Xppts~~ in glorious victory over his tribulations.

Mrs.Lark's telling me of Ole Bull, the great violinist of a generation or so ago. She heard him and secured his picture. When Ole Bull was playing in Munich once just at the climax of his difficultconcerto his A string snapped. For a fraction of a second he hesitated, then proceeded to finish his selection on the remaining three strings.

This is just the picture of the victory that thousands of menand women are winning every day. Out of their life's remainders they are thrilling the world with songs of victory.

Ah, but suppose a man is too weak, or too far gone to win such an outer victory? Well, Jesus himself won no outward triumph. He was nailed to the cross a beaten man, so far as the world is concerned. But just before his bitter defeat and while in the full knowledge of its inevitableness the Master spoke the words of our text to his disciples-In the world ye have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Even if there can be no outward triumph there can be a still greater inner victory, the spiritual triumph of the soul-greatest of all victories.

From Maud Royden's "Life's Little Pitfalls"-
"A few yrs ago Sir Frederic Treves, the great English physician was walking thru one of the worst slums of London. He saw a strange sign in a tenement window-the announcement that for a shillinganyone could come in and see the most deformed human being in the world, the so-called Elephant Man. Sir Frederick entered, a curtain was drawn, and there on the floor was an almost shapeless mass of human flesh. The man's deformities were so ghastly that even this physician could scarcely bear to look at them. In sudden pity Sir Frederic dropt his card into the Elephant Man's misshappen hands and hurried away to report to the police. The authorities immediately put a stop to the exhibition, but the man who had this poor creature in his power spirited him away and attempted to show him in Belgium The Belgium police interfered, and then with heartless cruelty the exhibitor put the Elephant Man on board ship for London and promptly made his own escape. Somehow or other

the deformed man reached London and tried ti hide in the railroad station. The police discovered him, of course, and then finding Sir Frederic's card in his possession called the physician on the phone. For the next three years the Elephant Manlived in utter seclusion in Sir Frederic's London establishment. On examination it was found that his mind was wholly normal, and his intelligence well above the average. The torture he must have undergone in those yearsof exhibition before peering and perverted human beings can hardly be imagined. Finally, at the age of 26 the Elephant Man died. What had life held for him? Not one of the things that make the rest of us happy. No work, no ability, no sense of value no wife or child or friend. Yet in those last three years this poor creaturetold Sir Frederic that he was happy every hour of the day."

And so at last the Elephant Man found his happiness and peace in the friendship and tender care of Sir Frederic, gaining a spiritual soul-victory even greater than any outer triumph could have been. And thus it is that the friendship and guidance and tender care of Jesus Christ helps many an one to gain a similar soul-victory over the crushing blows of life.

"No friend like him in times of deep distress."
"A friend to guide when paths of life are dim."

(3)

4. And Jesus makes his follower to realize that personality may actually be enriched thru suffering and defeat, and personal influence for good increased immeasurably. "He who loses his life shall find it."

Take Paul cast into prison- his useful career cut off. What a blow to the cause of Xty! And yet had he continued to have his freedom to go about visiting his churches, those wonderful letters of his would perhaps never have been written! And how the whole world is being enriched thru Paul's Epistles, thru Paul's witness to and interpretation of the Christ.

because of your deep and sincere expression of sympathy during our recent bereavement, I wish to pass on to you that which has come to me this week as a help, trusting that it will help you also in your adjustments to the hardships of life. Explain and read Miss Merz' letter.

5. Lastly, Christ gives to his follower a true perspective of life.

Our life here is but a moment between two eternities. But our Spirit, our true Self, is related to the Universal Spirit of God. We recognize in Christ an atonement with God, and thru Him we are awakened to realize our own at-one-ment with God.

"Thou Life within my life, than self more near,
Thou veiled Presence infinitely clear;
From all illusive shows of sense I flee
To find my center and my rest in Thee."

Our choice of program over the radio. With our minds we can also choose the spiritual voice we would hear, whether the confusion of human opinion or the still small voice of God. When we let Christ attune us to the Infinite by harmonizing ourselves to His thot, the voice of God becomes vocal within us and we hear.

Our very baffling and ~~often~~ crushing experiences beyond our control often create within us a sensitiveness to the voice of God. There is no stimulus like that of utter helplessness.

In utter helplessness we readily see the divine hand in ordinary happenings.

At point of starvation, someone brings us food- it is from God, a miracle!

When help comes in our direst hour of need, it is from God.

When we are safe and secure, well fed and clothed and housed we take it all for granted and hardly see God in it at all. Thus our Heavenly Father makes use of our calamities to draw us closer to Him.

J.G.Whittier-

"Breathe thru the pulses of desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, its heats expire;
Speak thru the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm."

Jesus Christ answers the dominant desires of our souls. He sets us in harmony with the great life and law of God.